Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Nellayi)*: Even now?

Mr. P. Sankaran Nambiar *(Director of Public Instruction)*: Yes.

Mr. M. K. Raja *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: Will the Government consider the question of improving the training given in this institution, so that indigenous institutions of this nature are given encouragement?

Mr. P. Sankaran Nambiar *(Director of Public Instruction)*: That will be considered.

PANCHAYATS—RESERVATION OF SEATS

100. Mr. S. P. Luiz *(Nominated)*: Will Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Government has reserved seats for the depressed and backward as well as to other communities in the Panchayats of the State?

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Minister for Development)*:

(a) The question of reservation of seats in the Panchayats is under the consideration of the Committee appointed by the Government for the purpose. The claims of all communities are being considered by the Committee.

Mr. S. P. Luiz *(Nominated)*: Has the Committee so far submitted any report to the Government?

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Minister for Development)*: No, Sir.

Mr. S. P. Luiz *(Nominated)*: Has any provision been made for the protection of the minority communities in Panchayats?

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Minister for Development*: That is too premature a question, because we have asked the Committee to consider all these questions and the report has not been submitted.

Mr. S. P. Luiz *(Nominated)*: Will it be the policy of the Government to ensure the representation of minority communities in Panchayats to safeguard their interests?

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Minister for Development)*: Certainly.

FERRY AND TRANSPORT SERVICE—COCHIN

101. Choudhury G. S. Dhara Singh *(Mattancheri)*: Will Government be pleased to answer.—

has the Government noted the press statement issued by the Managing Director of Ferry and Transport Service, Cochin, embodying their various difficulties in running the company and the loss the company had to incur this year, etc.?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: Yes.

Choudhury G. S. Dhara Singh *(Mattancheri)*: In view of this answer just to save the poor management from further loss, will the Government be pleased to take over the management and run it as a Government concern?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: After we received the complaint from the Management, the Government have permitted the company to charge extra rates for the transport of passengers and I understand from the management that they are now satisfied.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated)*: May I know whether the Municipalities of Ernakulam and Mattancheri have not resolved or requested the Government that they may be allowed to run these transports, I mean, the bus transport and the ferry transport?

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Minister for Development)*: There is a request of the Municipalities to carry on the bus transport service by them, but I do not think there is any such thing regarding ferry transport.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated)*: Is it being considered?

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Minister for Development)*: Yes.

Mr. V. R. Krishnan Ezhuthassan *(Oorakam)*: Is it still under consideration?

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Minister for Development)*: I think so; I can't say definitely.

Mr. P. Sankara Menon *(Trichur Town-North)*: Will it be considered favourably?

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Minister for Development)*: Personally, that is my idea, but I can't commit myself on behalf of the Government now.

Mr. S. P. Luiz *(Nominated)*: Are Municipalities running any other service anywhere else?

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Minister for Development)*: I want notice.

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